

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /086 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 416

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 5095

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PE
SUBJECT: DISQUALIFICATION OF CANDIDATES; A STRAW IN THE WIND

REF: LIMA 4781

1. EMBASSY REPORTED IN REFTEL PARA 5 RUMORS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE GOP WAS CONSIDERING DISUQUALIFYING SOME CANDIDATES TO THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY FOR ALLEGED PARTICIPATION IN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES DURING THE MAY 22-23 GENERAL STRIKE.

2. GOP-CONTROLLED DAILY "LA PRENSA" JUNE 9 CARRIES WHAT PURPORTS TO BE AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER WRITTEN BY RETIRED GEN ARTURO VALDES PALACIO, NUMBER 11 CANDIDATE FOR THE PSR (NOW IN HIDING), WHILE IN EXILE IN MEXICO. VALDES WAS DEPORTED BY THE MORALES BERMUDEZ GOVERNMENT IN JAN 1977 AND RETURNED AFTER THE MARCH 15, 1978 DECREE ALLOWING THE RETURN OF POLITICAL EXILES. IN THE LETTER VALDES ALLEGEDLY STATES TO AN ANONYMOUS CORRESPONDENT, "AS YOU KNOW, MY THESIS IS THAT MILITARY ASSISTANCE IS REQUIRED FOR ANY ACTION IN PERU, EVEN THOUGH SOME SUCCESS MAY BE OBTAINED BY ELECTORAL MEANS, SINCE THEY (ELECTIONS) WILL ALWAYS BE MEDIATIZED (SUBORDINATE TO A HIGH AUTHORITY BUT RETAINING SYMBOLIC POWER)." THE LETTER ADVOCATES A "GOOD STRUGGLE" IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY OVER THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE OF CONSOLIDATING REVOLUTIONARY REFORMS. IT IMPLIES THAT THE PSR TTACTIC WILL BE
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TO TRY TO DISRPUT AND PARALYZE THE ASSEMBLY, THUS FORCING THE GOP TO DISSOLVE THE GROUP AND DEPORT TROUBLESOME ELEMENTS, EITHER OF WHICH WOULD GIVE THE GOVERNMENT A BAD INTERNATIONAL IMAGE, ESPECIALLY AT THE SEAT OF THE "EMPIRE" (I.E., THE U.S) THE LETTER CLOSES, "WE MUST BE IN A POSITION TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF ALL CIRCUMSTANCES AND HELP THE GOVERNMENT TO DESTABLIZE ITSELF, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME COSOLIDATING OUR POSITIONS."

3. COMMENT: THE "LA PRENSA" TREATMENT OF THE ALLEGED VALDES PALACIO LETTER APPEARS INTENDED TO SUPPORT THE GOP'S THEORY THAT THE MAY DISTURBANCES WERE PART OF A LEFTIST PLOT. IT COULD ALSO BE USED TO JUSTIFY DISQUALIFYING SOME OF THE LEFTIST CANDIDATES FOR THE ASSEMBLY WHO ARE IN HIDING OR HAVE BEEN DEPORTED.
SHLAUDEMAM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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